

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20.

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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DALLAS TEXAS, FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1938

Office: 201 East Tenth St., Phone 6-6888

"Mother, Home and Heaven"

Sunday Morning Mother's Day
Sermon by John R. Rice

"Behold thy mother," Jesus, hanging on the cross, said to the beloved John before He died. We ought to remember our mothers. We ought to teach Christian motherhood. Next Sunday is Mother's Day and we expect the largest crowd we have had in many, many months, perhaps the largest Sunday morning crowd we ever had at the Fundamentalist Baptist Tabernacle, 201 East Tenth Street, when the pastor will preach on the topic *Mother, Home and Heaven*. We will have flowers at the door to pin on every mother—a white flower if her mother has gone to Heaven, a red flower if her mother still lives. "I will surely bring my mother to church Sunday," a woman said to me an hour ago. Bring yours, too! She will delight in the special occasion. The sermon will comfort and bless her heart. She will help us to encourage men, women, boys and girls everywhere to honor motherhood and best of all to remember mother's God.

We want all the mothers present. A large print New Testament with Psalms will be given to the oldest mother present, and she will have to be away up in eighty or ninety to get the Bible, and her eyes perhaps will be a little dim. For the mother with the largest number of children present with her, we will give a Scofield Reference Bible. For the mother with the youngest baby present we will give a doll for the baby, a lovely doll which the child will long keep and remember. The youngest mother present will also get a Bible. The pastor will give these four gifts as an encouragement for all to honor mothers and mother's God.

There will be special music Sunday morning by the Matthew's sisters quartette.

Sunday morning service will be a time of special tenderness and we believe of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit of God.

We will give an invitation for sinners to come to Christ and for backsliders to come back to joy and service. Let it be a day of reconsecration, of holy resolutions, a time of lining up for God.

4 Professions of Faith In Christ In One Week Through The Sword of the Lord

When two weeks ago we printed in *The Sword of the Lord* the sermon on *What Must I Do to Be Saved*, we prayed that God would give us ten or twelve conversions at least through that sermon. Already we have heard from four people professing faith in Christ. Each one of them signed the decision slip which was printed at the close of the sermon *What Must I Do to Be Saved?*. One dear woman wrote a nice letter from Natchez, Mississippi. Another of the decision slips came from Weston, Mississippi. One from Meeker, Oklahoma, and one from Rudy, Arkansas. Praise the Lord!

Most of those ten thousand papers containing that sermon have

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Hear John R. Rice
— RADIO WRR —
7:30 A. M. SUNDAY
Tell Friends. Pray

"Ho, Everyone That Thirsteth!"

A Sermon For Sinners From Isaiah 55

Sunday night sermon of Dr. John R. Rice, at Fundamentalist Baptist Tabernacle, Dallas, April 24, 1938. Stenographically reported.

Turn to Isaiah fifty-five. Let's read several verses.

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat, yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness."

"Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

How true is God's Word. How sure it is!

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

God keeps His promises. God says "If you will do what I have said here, I will give you the joy I have promised."

"For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

"Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Here is God's invitation to you. It was written for Jews primarily. The message is to the people of David (as you see from verses 3 to 5), and the land of Palestine which will be restored, yet the message perfectly fits sinners who come to Christ for salvation, and God so intended it.

Thirsty May Come

First of all, who is to come?

"Ho, every one that thirst-

eth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

The Bible has many invitations, and the sweetest invitation the Bible has is "Come, come, come!" When Adam and Eve sinned before they were cast outside the Garden of Eden, God ran after Adam and said, "Adam, where art thou?" From that time to this God has been running after men, seeking men, calling, calling, calling!

Robert Harkness wrote a song,

"I heard the Saviour calling
In accents sweet and low,
Forever calling, calling,
And yet I would not go."

Oh, it is a wonderful thing that God calls and calls. So here He says, "Ho everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." Well, here is good news for you. Anybody who is thirsty can come.

There are a good many homes where they don't want to hear me and talk to me. Sinners turn a rough shoulder. There are a good many who think they have no need, no hunger, they think they have plenty of time yet. But, thank God, some places I go they know they need God.

I went to talk to a man the other day who had been drinking beer. I said, "How are you getting along with God?" "Well, that's my business," he replied. I looked him square in the eye, "It is my

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

BIG S. S. 9:30

Lesson: Mark, Chapter 3. Attendance to Average Over 500 in May

To turn people out at 12:00 o'clock promptly, if possible, and by general agreement, we are beginning the Sunday School next Sunday at 9:30 instead of 9:45. We believe this arrangement will be very popular and we urge everybody to be in his place exactly at 9:30. Already the Junior and Intermediate Departments have been beginning at this time. All will begin now at the same time.

The lesson for Sunday is Mark, chapter 3, which tells how Jesus healed the withered hand on the Sabbath, how many had devils cast out, the twelve apostles were chosen, of the unpardonable sin, and how all who love Christ and do His will are equal to His mother or His brethren. Let no one miss this lesson. Verse by verse we are going through the gospel of Mark. Here, you will actually learn the Bible. Bring your Bible to adults' large class taught by Pastor John R. Rice. Young married couples without children also have a fine new class. Classes for every age. About fifty teachers and officers, consecrated, soul winning, clean living men and women. No modernistic Sunday School literature. Souls saved every Sunday.

During the month of May we expect to average over 500 in attendance. We have been right at 500 for the last few Sundays. Your cooperation is invited. Hungry-hearted men and women will be fed and blessed in this Sunday School and we urge you to bring them with you.



SIoux INDIANS WILL SING SUNDAY NIGHT

Above is a newspaper picture of Rev. George Wilson, a full-blooded Sioux Indian, and three of his children. The picture was taken while they sang as they will do for us Sunday night. Brother Wilson has a beautiful voice. He is a college graduate, has done several years of mission work for the Lord. He was converted after he had gone on the stage singing for the world. Now he is using his glorious voice for the Lord. His children sing with remarkably clear, sweet voices. They will sing three or four numbers before the sermon Sunday night, and then again after the sermon. They will give several numbers fitting Mother's Day.

Do not miss this special treat at the Fundamentalist Baptist Tabernacle Sunday night. Service begins at 7:45. A large choir will sing under the direction of Mr. Paul Turner. Orchestra plays at 7:30, before song service. Come early.

Sunday night sermon by the pastor will be especially for men. Others may attend, but the positive, hard-hitting, plain-spoken message will be to comfort and strengthen men and to win them to Christ. It will be an evangelistic message and we earnestly pray that many will be saved. Bring your unsaved friends. Let us have a glorious time Sunday night. Additional seats will be provided for the big crowds expected morning and night. Let every church member and every friend be in your places.

"Ho, Everyone That Thirsteth!"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

business, too," I told him. "I love you. I mean good, and it is my business, too."

He broke down and began to cry. "If anyone ever needed help, I do," he said. "You can get help then," I told him. "And God loves you." I read him Isaiah 1:18, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

"That doesn't mean me," he said. "That is somebody else." "It does mean you, too," I said. But he said, "No, that is for somebody else. I don't mean to say you are telling a story. That just isn't for me."

I said, "Yes, it is for you, too." I told him I would pray for him. I urged him to get right with God. "Not when I am full of beer," he said.

I went back two days later and saw him. I asked him, "How is it with you and God?"

"I believe it is fixed up," he said.

I went to see him this afternoon and his face shined. We had prayer in the home. His wife was happy, and he is happy. They have started to church.

It is a wonderful thing that God calls everybody who is thirsty. Are you thirsty? It is the call of God. Are you hungry? "Come," God said, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." I am glad God calls people. He is calling you. That is good news for you if your heart is hungry. If you are dissatisfied that is a sign God is calling. He said, "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." He that hath no money let him come. Well, that is good. You go down to a place where they have a big meal served at one dollar a plate or fifty cents or sixty cents. Or if you want a bed, they want money for it. The cheapest bed you can get, even if you get a cot, where there are all kinds of people in one room, you have got to pay for it, fifteen cents or so. The Lord says, "If there is anybody who doesn't have money, I want you, I am calling for you." That is a wonderful invitation. God wants anybody. To a man who can't buy anything, God says, "Come on, I will give it to you free." That is right down my alley, isn't it yours? He said "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." Come without money and without price, and he that hath no money, the Scripture said, let him come. He said, "Wherefore do you spend money for that which is not bread?"

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD and of John R. Rice

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and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness."

Perhaps life has done something to you. You never get satisfied. You never got what you wanted. Did you try it all and it turned out bad?

Every now and then I meet people in sadness who tried marriage and love fled away. Oh, the bitterness and the ashes when love is gone!

The night has a thousand eyes,
And the day but one,
But the light of the whole world dies
With the setting sun.

The mind has a thousand eyes,
And the heart but one,
But the light of the whole life dies
When love is done.

So somebody cries that love has fled away and life isn't worth living. Many a man has talked to me, many friends have told me, they tell me their problems, tell me their burdens, they say to me, "Now I wish I were dead. There is nothing left to live for."

One woman talked to me in San Antonio, a poor, harlot woman came weeping . . . embittered she told me, "I didn't have to go to the dogs. When my husband quit me and said he didn't love me any more, I didn't care whether I lived or died." After awhile she tried sin and that didn't satisfy. And with a broken heart she came back one night to ask if God would save a woman as far gone as she was. And, thank God, He did. And so He will you.

Are you dissatisfied with where you have spent your money? I see the prodigal boy leave his father's home. The old man says, "Son, won't you stay here?"

"No, I want to have a big time. Give me the portion of goods that falleth to me."

And he sorrowfully divided his living. And not many days after — he didn't stay long when he had the money — the boy went into a far country and there wasted his substance in riotous living. But when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land, and he began to be in want. You know, God has a gospel that is good when a famine hits. Let depressions come, I have a gospel that is good for depression time. Unemployment, poverty, distress, trouble are God's opportunity. Many find a Saviour when they lose everything else. You had better lose your job and have God, just like a man Brother Matthews told about the other day. Away out in Arizona, he had gone with his family to pick cotton from January to March in the irrigated district. "Thank God, I got down," he said. "He put me away out here where I would be saved." If you are dissatisfied, if you have lost friends or lost money, if you have lost your health, and lost everything else, the Lord Jesus said, "Wherefore do you spend money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness."

So I am reminded of a woman who came to me in Chicago. She was one of seven women rum-runners in those days, seven that were known to international police. She ran liquor across the border, some at Detroit, some at other places along the Canadian border, some at Jaurez, Mexico. This young woman heard me preach. I announced I would preach on "Whiskey Prescribing Doctors and Drug-gists, Wet Politicians and Bootlegging Skunks." As I announced what I would do to that bunch, suddenly in the midst of the service, weeping, she got up and went away. She came back to hear me one night later on. She waited to

see me. She said, "I went to Detroit in my car to get a load of booze. I got a load, but," she said, "every turn of the wheel, something kept saying to me, 'That man is right. You are nothing but a lousy bootlegging skunk.'" She searched her heart, and God dealt with her. She stood there two hours and talked to me. She turned over that liquor, quit the business and came to God. But this is what she said to me, "That is right, that is all I am, nothing but a lousy bootlegging skunk. I haven't a friend but what I bought. If there came a time when I needed one, I wouldn't know anybody I could trust. I have worn my fur coats, and have had nice cars, I have bribed the police officers to get by, but I can't trust anybody. I haven't a friend I didn't buy, and friends you buy are not worth having! You don't have anything. You have spent your money for that which satisfieth not." She went into a drugstore and timidly bought a fifty cent Bible. Some way she found the sixteenth chapter of Acts and was saved.

You have gone out and been dissatisfied, deceived, disillusioned. If your heart is empty, if you tonight need something you don't have, something to bring joy, something to make life worth living, I have just the message you need. You can have peace for your heart, forgiveness for your sins, bread that will satisfy. "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." You had better come while you can.

The Woman Who Wished She Were Dead

A woman came to me at Shamrock, Texas. She had said to a friend, "I wish I were dead. I am not fit to live, and I am not having any peace. I wish I were dead."

Her friend said, "Don't say that. That is wicked."

"But it is so," the woman told her.

"Well, her friend said, 'I know some way. Let's go and see Bro. Rice.'"

The woman broke down in my front room as she told me, "I am a member of a country club set, I attend the dances and card parties."

She said she had lived a life of pleasure, she had tried everything, and then she said, "If that is all there is to life, I wish it were done. It is a failure. I wish it was over with. I wish I were dead. I have thought about committing suicide. If that is all there is to life, I have had plenty of it."

"But that is not all there it to it," I told her.

"Is there any way for a person to have peace and joy and a life worth living?" she asked.

"Yes, there is."

"How can I get it?" she asked.

"Get down on your knees right here and tell God that your life has been a failure, that you are a sinner and want forgiveness, that you want peace," I told her. "He has it for you."

So she did, weeping as she prayed, her friend prayed, and she found the peace she wanted. Sin doesn't satisfy, but Jesus does!

A poor, fallen woman called my home one November night about eleven o'clock. We had already gone to bed. She and her friend wanted me to pray for them. They came just before midnight. After they came we prayed. I said to her,

"Turn your back on sin. It does not satisfy. It will only bring a burning memory, it will only bring heartache."

"Don't I know it!" she said. "Why do you think I get drunk? I am trying to drown it all and forget it all."

I say, if you are dissatisfied, then, if you have spent your money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which satisfies not, then hearken diligently to

me, the Lord said. Hear and your soul shall live. "Incline your ear," the Lord said, "and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live."

God has a message for the folks that are dissatisfied and hungry. God has a message for the folks who have tried the world and found it wanting. God has a message for those who have tried the primrose path and found it thorny. God has a message for those who have drunk the cup of pleasure and found dregs in the bottom. God has a message for the folks who have tried Satan's way and have learned after all that the way of the transgressor is hard. God says, "Come on and buy it for nothing. It is free. You don't have to have money. You can't buy it, but I will give it to you free." Everybody that is thirsty is urged to come. If you are thirsty tonight, hear God's message for you.

Sinners Must Hear to Be Saved

The first thing to do is to hear. Here it is: "Hearken diligently unto me." I hope you will listen tonight. I wish some way I could chain your attention until everybody here would let these words sink down in your ears. I wish you would say, "I will remember every word that preacher says." I wish you would wake up and listen until God would speak to your soul. "Hearken diligently," "incline your ear." People have an idea that preachers ought to hold their attention. There are a lot of Christian people, church people, wrong on that. They think a preacher ought to keep their attention, that preachers ought to bless you. No, you ought to come and listen so earnestly until any preacher would bless you, any message out of God's Word would be sweet. It wouldn't have to be illustrated, and made interesting to hold your attention. You ought to set your attention on God. My sinner friend, if you are unsaved you had better incline your ear and hear, turn your ear toward God. You had better seek God, instead of waiting for God to seek you. He has been running after you a long time. Now you had better run after God. So hearken diligently unto me.

Oh, of all the sins that send people to Hell, I think on this one thing more people go to Hell. You know what thing that is? It is that you won't hear! You won't hear! That is what the Saviour said, too. A sower went forth to sow, and some seed fell on hard ground and the birds picked it up and carried it away. Satan takes the gospel out of people's hearts. That is the reason over in Hebrews the second chapter the Scripture said, "We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." Let me read that again. "We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." If you would give more earnest heed, you could be saved. Preachers ought to demand attention, and expect attention. That is the reason I so insist that nobody talk while I am talking, that there be no carelessness. It is a sin not to listen. You sin against God and against your own soul when you do not listen to God's message. God has a blessing for you if you will sit up and listen when you go to church and you should have the children listen. You are lost and dying, you are going to Hell unless you turn your ear toward God. God has a message for you. He is calling you. He is pleading for you to turn back to Him and find Him while you can. "Hearken diligently unto me," He said.

My friends, preaching is work for me, and listening ought to be work for you, then. Sit up on the seat and get this down, get the Scripture references and put them down. You won't remember them if you do not put them down in a notebook. Then feast on it, go back over it. God said to. You will learn something for your soul.

Oh, this preaching to people where the gospel is shed off like water off a duck's back! I have sometimes wished I could go to Africa where they have never heard the gospel, where they never knew that One loved them and died for them. I could tell them that God loved them, that Christ died for them, their eyes would burn

and their hearts would be open. Oh, you that are gospel hardened, you that have heard it so long! You have heard me preach so long now you don't care for anybody's preaching. You had better learn to listen, for "We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." And if there is somebody here to—
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

BOOKS FOR PREACHERS

Recommended by John R. Rice

Preachers need help. Books are as necessary for preachers as maps for travellers. Mothers with nursing babies must, they say, "eat for two," and so preachers when they read must read for many. The unfed preacher has an unfed people. The pastor who has not been inspired and blessed before going into the pulpit will leave his people un-blessed and uninspired. Of course the preacher needs his Bible, but preachers also need help to understand the Bible, need encouragement, inspiration, and illustrations. The best Bible preachers used books. Moses was learned in all the wisdom and knowledge of the Egyptians (Acts 7:22). Daniel learned by books (Dan. 9:2). The aged Paul wrote to Timothy particular instructions to bring him some books and parchments when he, Timothy, should come to Rome to visit him (II Tim. 4:13).

I hope my preacher brethren can little by little get some fine, sound, fundamental books as a basis for your library working tools. Many books, perhaps, you do not need. Some would be a waste of time and money. Some would be positively harmful. Others can be very great help. I suggest that preachers buy carefully, after much prayer, that they do not buy every new book that comes out. I recommend the following as very, very valuable and helpful.

CONCORDANCES

Young's Analytical Concordance is my favorite. It has about 1,200 large pages, 311,000 references. Subdivided under the Hebrew and Greek originals with literal meaning and pronunciation of each. The value of this work to a preacher simply cannot be estimated. I have used my copy for years, worn it out, had it rebound, and still use it daily. You can find any verse in the Bible. You can find the original word in the Greek or Hebrew for any word in our English Bible. You can find how many times it is used and how, in the Bible. Next to the Bible itself, every minister needs a concordance. The price is \$7.50, plus postage on nine pounds to your town, average about 38 cents.

Cruden's Concordance is the old standard. While it does not give the original Hebrew or Greek words, yet it has some 200,000 references, a fine, large book of 783 pages. Very, very valuable for quickly finding any verse in the Bible you desire. The price is most reasonable, only \$2.00, plus 15c postage.

COMMENTARIES

Matthew Henry's Commentary, a large, six volume set of over 7,000 pages, with new plates. Has been popular for many, many years, with sound preachers in various forms in England and America. It was highly commended by Spurgeon, by Theodore Cuyler, and many other great preachers, and we commend it heartily. The six volume set, over 7,000 pages, beautifully and strongly bound, sells for only \$15.00 plus postage on seventeen pounds to your address, averaging about 75c.

Jamieson, Fausset and Brown is a splendid one-volume commentary on the whole Bible. 1,347 pages, larger type and larger pages. It has recently been reprinted. Commended most highly by great evangelical preachers and leaders. It has helped thousands of preachers. Right now only \$4.95 plus 35c postage.

(Next week other books of Sermons, Biographies, etc., will be recommended).

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BIBLE LESSONS ON MATTHEW

We are just finishing, after marvelous blessing, the last chapter on the Bible lessons on Matthew. The lessons form a large commentary written from the fundamental, premillennial viewpoint on this great book. Lessons are neatly mimeographed on notebook paper, size 8 x 10 1/2 inches. The lessons are sold in a large notebook, carefully wrapped and includes about 230 pages. Those studying the book of Matthew, preachers, Sunday school teachers and students needing a commentary on this part of God's Word will find these lessons on Matthew by Editor John R. Rice very helpful we believe. Price including lessons and notebook, \$1.50. Please include postage for three pounds, which averages about 20c.

4 Professions of Faith


(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

not yet been destroyed. Some, doubtless, have already trusted Christ as Saviour who have not written to tell us so. Others may do so. If one reads this who has been led to trust Christ as his Saviour, will you not let us know? And tell those about you, too. Make your confessions public and open for Christ. Readers, I suggest that you hand that paper to some unsaved friend to read and urge him to trust Christ as Saviour. Let us hear from others who have found Christ through that message. We expect to learn that others have been led to depend upon the blood of Christ and claim Him as Saviour through that message. Meantime, at a good deal of cost, we will be having another printing of that sermon in pamphlet form. It may be obtained for 15c a dozen or \$1.00 a hundred from The Sword Book Room, 201 East Tenth St., Dallas.

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"Ho, Everyone That Thirsteth!"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

night who doesn't want to go to Hell — are you here? Do you say, "I don't want to go to Hell. I don't want to burn in torment. I don't want to be forever away from God?" The thing you had better do is to turn and hear the Word of God. "Hearken diligently unto me," He said, "and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live." Turn your ear toward God!

There is a still, small voice tonight that calls. If you do not hear it, then your ear isn't turned toward God. The Holy Spirit speaks tonight. I feel His presence.

If you will not hear God speak it is because of a wicked heart. Your dull ear is turned away from God. You won't let God speak to your heart. God is calling all right. God is calling you today! He wants you today! You had better listen to Him. Poor sinner, hearken diligently. You can be saved today, now, if in your heart you will trust Him. If you will listen, He will speak and show you the rest of the way.

People are lost forever who will not listen to God. People who do not turn and hear the Word of God go to Hell. The first thing is to hear.

Seek Ye the Lord While He May Be Found

What is next? "Seek ye the Lord," verse six says. Did you notice here the Scripture says, "Seek God." Seek God. When my father started out in revivals a good many years ago he had a "seeker's" seat, a bench for seekers. When he would start a revival meeting, he would say, "Those that would like to be saved in this revival, come and take this seat." And they would come and take the first or second seat as seekers. Folks that seek God can find Him. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near." I will say right now, if anybody hears this who is not a Christian and if you go to Hell it will not be God's fault. It is not God's move, it is not His turn. God hasn't wronged you. God hasn't sinned against you. He doesn't need to run you down. It is your move to seek God. You went against God, you ignored Him, you went headlong into sin. You wouldn't listen when God called. It is your move. If you do not seek God, you are going to Hell, you are doomed and lost. Oh, tonight I would seek God. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

There are two meanings in that verse. One is, thank God, He may be found. I am glad He is near. He is not far off. The prodigal boy went into a far country, and when he came to himself he said, "I will arise and go to my father." I used to preach that it was a long way home, until I found one day that that wasn't in the Bible. Just turn around, He is there. The Bible just says, "And he arose and came to his Father." The Bible doesn't say how far it was. It wasn't far when he made up his mind, when his pride was buried when he got hungry enough. And the Father ran to meet him. Listen, my friend, God is near. He could be found today. Aren't you glad He is near? God isn't a long way off. God is near. He sent His Son to die for us. His Spirit is here now. The Holy Spirit is knocking at the door of your heart now. He says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Do you hear? You can find Him if you want to. He is near. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

I am awfully glad God has times of refreshing when God's Spirit moves. I want us to have a great

revival here, hold revival services, revival in the hearts and homes. Last Wednesday night about eight people got up to say they had had somebody saved in the few days before that. God has given us a moving of the Spirit for revival. Sinner, if you are hungry, you can seek the Lord and find Him, for He is right at you. Oh, call upon Him, trust Him!

The next thing about that "Seek ye the Lord" is this. There comes a time when you can't find Him. I know Satan will tell you "Anytime will do," or "Some other time is just as good," but that isn't true. There will come a time when you can't find God. Your heart will be too hardened or you will be too busy about something else.

I will never forget when a Methodist preacher came to hold a revival meeting in a town where I lived when I was a boy. He told about an old man who had gone far in sin, and after he was on his death bed and about to die, he sent for the preacher. The preacher came to see him to talk to him about his soul. When the preacher came in, they told him this man was out of his head, he was not conscious. This man was in a delirium on his dying bed, and he began to scream out, "Get out of apple trees! Get out of my apple trees! I will have the police on you! Get out of my orchard!" He was delirious and he thought the boys were in his apple trees. The preacher tried to win him to Christ and said, "I am the Methodist pastor. I want to show you how to be saved," but the man cried out, "Get out of my apple trees," and the poor man died like that.

There is a time when it is too late to find God. There is a time when you can't find God. You may commit the unpardonable sin, or you may harden your heart, or you may go on until death. You may say, "There is always time enough to pray." There is not always time enough to pray, not time enough to repent, not time enough to find God, not time enough to read the Bible! You had better seek God while He may be found. Somebody said, "Well, Brother Rice, the thief on the cross was saved at the dying hour." Yes, that is true, but that is only half true. You say the thief was saved at the dying hour, but which thief? There were two thieves there. One was not saved. He had the same opportunity as the other. It is recorded that one thief was saved so we might know that God has mercy. But it is also recorded that the other thief died and went to Hell, that we might not presume on that mercy. There will come a time that God can't be found. If you are not saved, then seek God today while He may be found.

I will give you this heartening word — if you want Him, you can find Him. If your heart reaches out toward God, He will reach out to you. The Father ran to meet His prodigal son.

Sinner, tonight if you will start out toward home, thank God you can find Him. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found."

Call Upon Him While He Is Near

What else should sinners do? The next thing is to call on Him while He is near.

You say, "Can a sinner pray?" Yes, sinners can pray. Will God hear a sinner pray?" Yes. I know a good many Scriptures where God heard sinners pray. The poor, dying thief said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." And Jesus said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." God did remember him. Are there any other cases? The publican in the temple said, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner." And God did have mercy. Didn't Jesus tell us that he was justified? That sinner's prayer was heard?

I remember when my heart cried out to God and God forgave me and saved me. You remember in the tenth chapter of Romans the Scripture says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." I don't say you have got to get down on your knees to be saved. I don't say you have to say words out loud to be saved. But God does say this, that anybody whose heart calls on God for mercy can get mercy. "Seek

ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." Maybe you can't do it if you wait until some other time, but you can do it now. While He is near, call on the Lord. If I were you, if I were a lost sinner, I would just say so. "Oh, Lord, I am a sinner." Do you know what the prodigal boy said? He said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." Oh, you can turn now and call and God will hear. You can ask for mercy and get mercy. You can ask for forgiveness and get forgiveness. An old song we used to sing says,

"I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Saviour
Oh, there are ten thousand charms."

"Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him."

Won't you call tonight while God is near? Won't you ask God to save you?

I will never forget one old man to whom I had said, "Are you a Christian?" He said, "I have been superintendent of a Sunday School."

"But that isn't what I asked. Have you been born again?"

"I haven't done anything wrong but curse a little," he said.

"But that is not the question," I said. "You had as well say, 'I have just killed a few men now and then.' I said, 'Have you really been converted and had a change of heart?'"

Very seriously he said, "I guess I never did."

"Don't you think you had better get it then?"

"I guess I had," he said.

He came down the aisle, knelt down at the front. That was in the first revival I ever held. He knelt down on the straw and raised his old gristed face and lifted his hands and said, "Oh, God, if you will save me, I will do anything you want me to do." And God did save him!

Call on the Lord, God is ready to save. He hears the cry of saints and He hears the cry of sinners that want forgiveness and mercy. If you want it tonight, then call and get it. There is forgiveness and salvation for "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." It is for you, my brother. God has been calling you long enough. It is your time to call on God. If you call, He will forgive and save you. I hope you will trust Him now.

Let the Wicked Forsake His Way

What else besides hear, and see, and call? And now what else? Forsake your way. Turn your back on your sins. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him: and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." He will! He will, if you will but forsake your way. "Let the wicked forsake his way." I know God has terms that you don't like to meet; but those terms fit you. God's Word just says, "Let the wicked" you and I, we are the wicked. But you say, "I am not wicked."

You are wicked enough to go to Hell. You are a sinner, and you know it. You may be a nicely

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dressed wicked person, but you are wicked. You may be moral, but you are wicked. You have a rotten heart inside. You are lost, condemned unless you get a change of heart. You need it now. "Let the wicked forsake his way." Do you know what is taking you away from God? Why you are lost? Your own way — that is the trouble. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." *Your own way*. Do you know what sin is? Here is what sin is: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one TO HIS OWN WAY;" that is what is wrong. Here is the sin and the condemnation. You have your own way, and therein is destruction and ruin. You need to say, "Oh, Lord, you take me. Let me not have my way but yours."

I said to a man this afternoon, the man I mentioned awhile ago, "You need to let Jesus have His way now."

"I have learned sure enough that my way doesn't bring anything but trouble," he said.

So it does bring trouble now, and it brings a smarting conscience and remorse and a wasted life. It brings ruin after awhile. Your way will lead you to Hell. It is the broad way. If you are ever going to be saved, turn your back on your own way.

You say, "I can't ever be perfect."

I know, but turn your heart toward God and say, "Lord, I am

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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"Ho, Everyone That Thirsteth!"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

sorry. I am a sinner." You can turn your heart toward God and away from your sin. That is what you will have to do in the heart. Every man must forsake his way and forsake his sins. If you do not do that, you are condemned, lost, away from God. You will never be saved without in your heart turning to God. That is repentance. Repent, repent, repent! Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." The Scripture said again, you remember that Paul said, "God . . . commandeth all men everywhere to repent." To repent means to turn your heart to God, to change your mind about

sin, about God, to forsake your way. I couldn't altogether agree with what Sam Jones said repentance is. He said, "Repentance means to quit your meanness." You might quit your meanness outwardly and not be saved, but inwardly you must turn your heart from sin. It means you have to turn to God, and repenting of your sins would be trusting in Christ, and so you would be saved.

That isn't all, but one must forsake his thoughts. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts."

Every man here has a way to be saved. Your thoughts are wrong. "I have not done anything so very bad," you say. What you mean is, "I have just about gotten myself saved." "I am a pretty good fellow," or "I am a member of a lodge," or "I live up to my obligations," "I take care of my family." "I don't do anybody any harm." "I do the best I know how." "I live up to the golden rule," they say.

Well, give up your way and your thoughts about salvation, your plans about salvation. You are not going to be saved your way. Just say, "All right, Lord, any way you save me I will take it and be grateful." Say, "Lord, here I am. You save me your way."

Many times people have said to me, "No, sir. If I don't feel a certain way, I will not do it."

One woman I tried to win at Allen, Texas, said, "If I do not shout like my mother shouted, I am not going to do it." I said, "If you set your heart on your own way about it, you will go to Hell."

You can't lay down the law to God. If you are ever saved, you will have to say, "Lord, save me your way, not mine."

Old Saul of Tarsus was on the road down to Damascus. There came a light from Heaven, and he fell off his horse on the ground (if he were on a horse) and fell on his face, and a voice said, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" And he said, "Who art thou Lord?" And the answer came back, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." Then old Saul gave up the whole thing and said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? I have been going my way, now what is your way?" And if you want to be saved and will turn your back on your way and take His way, and trust Him, He will do the rest of it.

Return To the Lord

One more word about it, and that is this: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

Doesn't that sound easy? It is when a man is seeking God and has turned his ear toward God and when a man has called for God and has forsaken his own way, and given up all his plans, then let him return to the Lord, and the door will be open when he gets there. You don't have to argue with God after you turn your heart away from sin, when you have said, "Lord, not my way — my way is wrong — show me your way. I haven't any plans left, I haven't any way of my own." Then just and turn back to God? Will you forsake your way?"

"Yes."

"And the unrighteous man his thoughts." Are you willing to give up your plans and tell God so and return to the Lord and He will abundantly pardon.

If in your heart of hearts you will say, "Lord, I am tired of sin. It doesn't satisfy. Just forgive me and save me." And if you trust it to Him, He will! He will! He will!

I remember one summer when I had just started out in soul winning. I was leading the singing in a revival. I didn't know many Scriptures, only a very few verses in the Bible, but what I did know I believed. I had found these two verses, so one summer I counted more than sixty people who trusted Christ as I held my finger on these verses. I said it about this way:

"The Bible says, 'Let the wicked forsake his way.' Will you turn your heart away from your sins

let Him show you how to be saved?" "Yes." "Well, that is repentance." I don't divide it up that way now so much.

"And the next thing is to return to the Lord. Are you willing to believe what He says and take Him up on His promises?" "Yes, I am."

"All right, what does He say?" "He says He will give mercy, and abundantly pardon."

"Do you believe He will do it?" "Yes."

"Will you take Him up on that right now?"

"Yes."

"And will you turn from sin and trust Christ?"

"Yes, I will."

And more than sixty people in one summer tried God out on that precious promise in those two verses.

My friends, you can turn and get abundant pardon. Yes, abundant pardon. He will have mercy upon you, and He will abundantly pardon. That is what you need. I would look to Him and get it tonight. If you are thirsty, or dissatisfied, then incline your ear to God, forsake your way, seek Him, call on Him, forsake your thoughts and return to Him, and tonight you will be saved.

"But I want joy," you say.

I know, but you are ahead of the hounds. Look on down in the last of that chapter. Look at verse 12:

"For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

You shall go out with joy! You are not supposed to get joy until you get salvation. You get the joy of salvation after you get the salvation. You can't expect to feel right until you get right. You can't expect to feel well until you call a doctor and turn your case over to him.

"For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace." Isn't that sweet? Salvation and then joy, and then settled peace that stays there! Then the mountains and hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Isn't it fine when you are saved and the flowers smell sweeter and the birds sing louder, and all the trees seem like they are clapping their hands because a sinner is saved? Isn't that fine?

What else? You will have joy and peace, and "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Oh, it is sweet. That old barren life will begin to bring forth fruit after you are saved. It is sweet after you are saved. Instead of drunkenness will come up soberness. Instead of quarrelling will come up peace. Instead of the devil's works will come up works of God and love for God with the Holy Spirit dwelling within you. God brings peace. Peace like a river flows for you after you trust Him. Friend, you take Him at His word, seek Him today while He may be found, let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

And more good news is promised. Like the rain comes down from Heaven and waters the earth and makes it bring forth fruit, so God's Word is just as truly from Heaven. If you believe it, it will bring forth the fruit of righteousness in your heart now. Won't you say, "Lord, I will take You up on that, I will do it now," and you will have peace.

Let us have an understanding. I am not talking about whether you join a church or not. If there is someone who doesn't know you are saved, I would make sure now and get it forever settled. You have inclined your ear, haven't you? Will you say in your heart, "Lord Jesus, I will turn my back on sin. I will give up my way. I will take Your way. I will come to You for that mercy and pardon and take it and be saved. I want You to give me joy and bring up fruits of righteousness instead of the thorny tree. I will risk You for the peace and fruit, and here I come." In your heart trust Him. Will you take Christ now and turn

your heart to God? Will you do that?

"Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." Will you do it. Call on Him, will you?

Reader, when the above sermon was preached several claimed Christ as Saviour, among them three married men. Will you do it, too?

Then say, "I want this settled now. I will seek God and find Him." Do you want peace and forgiveness. Do you want to be on God's side, to be saved, a Christian in your heart? If you do, then, you pray in your heart and forsake your way, ask God to save you and He will. Then won't you write and let me know? Write John R. Rice, 201 E. Tenth Street, Dallas.

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